

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A guiding device, comprising:
 - an elongated finger-resting surface;
 - an elongated upstanding section projecting upwardly from said finger-resting surface;
 - an elongated scale-supporting section coupled to and extending along said upstanding section with said upstanding section being positioned between said scale-supporting section and said finger-resting surface, said scale-supporting section being inclined with respect to a guiding device supporting surface; and
 - an elongated first scale made of metal and having a lower surface and an upper surface, said lower surface being rigidly and unreleasably attached to said scale-supporting section and said upper surface having first indicia to indicate predetermined lengths along said first scale, and
 - said finger-resting surface permitting fingers of a user gripping said guiding device to be positioned on said finger-resting surface while being protected from an implement by said upstanding section during movement of the implement along said guiding device adjacent said first scale.
2. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein said finger-resting surface is substantially flat.
3. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein said finger-resting surface, said upstanding section, and said scale supporting section are integrally formed as a unitary, one-piece element.
4. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 3, wherein said finger-resting surface, said upstanding section, and said scale supporting section are formed of plastic.

5. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein said first scale has a non-metallic coating on said upper surface.
6. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 1, further comprising: a substantially flat contact surface positioned beneath said finger-resting surface, said upstanding section, and said scale supporting section to permit smooth application of said guiding device on the working surface.
7. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 6, wherein said contact surface includes second indicia indicating predetermined lengths along said contact surface.
8. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 7, wherein said second indicia is printing on said contact surface.
9. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 6, wherein said contact surface includes an elongated recess.
10. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein said upstanding section is a wall having a first side facing said first scale and a second side facing said finger-resting surface, with said first side being inclined with respect to said scale-supporting section.
11. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 10, wherein said second side includes a plurality of ribs.
12. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein said guiding device has a generally T-shaped cross-section.
13. (Original) A guiding device, comprising:
an elongated, first portion having a finger-resting surface and a bottom surface opposite to said finger-resting surface;

an elongated, second portion extending along said first portion, said second portion having an upstanding section and an inclined scale-supporting section, said upstanding section projecting upwardly from said finger-resting surface and having an uppermost free end, said upstanding section being positioned between said scale-supporting section and said first portions, said first and second portions having a generally T-shaped cross-section; and

an elongated first scale having a lower surface rigidly and unreleasably attached to said scale-supporting section, an upper surface having first indicia to indicate predetermined lengths along said first scale, an innermost edge positioned closest to said free end of said upstanding section, and an outermost edge remote from said innermost edge,

said bottom surface of said first portion being configured to be placed against a substantially flat working surface, and said upper surface of said first scale being inclined with respect to the working surface such that said innermost edge of said first scale is further from the working surface than said outermost edge of said first scale, and

said finger-resting surface permitting fingers of a user gripping said guiding device to be positioned on said finger-resting surface while being protected from an implement by said upstanding section during movement of the implement along said guiding device, adjacent said first scale.

14. (Currently Amended) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein each of said finger-resting surface and said first bottom surface of said first portion is substantially flat, and said finger-resting surface is [[substantially]] parallel to said first bottom surface.

15. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said first portion and said second portion are integrally formed as a unitary, one-piece element.

16. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said first portion and said second portion are formed of plastic.

17. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said first scale is metal.

18. (Previously Presented) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said bottom surface includes second indicia indicating predetermined lengths along said bottom surface.

19. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said upstanding section is a wall having a first side facing said first scale and a second side facing said finger-resting surface, with said first side being inclined with respect to said scale-supporting section.

20. (Original) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said upstanding section includes means for gripping said upstanding section by fingers of a user of said guiding device.

21. (Previously Presented) A guiding device, comprising:
an elongated finger-resting surface;
an elongated upstanding section projecting upwardly from said finger-resting surface;
an elongated scale-supporting section coupled to and extending along said upstanding section with said upstanding section being positioned between said scale-supporting section and said finger-resting surface, said scale-supporting section being inclined with respect to a guiding device supporting surface; and
an elongated first scale having a lower surface and an upper surface, said lower surface being rigidly and unreleasably attached to said scale-supporting section and said upper surface having first indicia to indicate predetermined lengths along said first scale, and
said finger-resting surface permitting fingers of a user gripping said guiding device to be positioned on said finger-resting surface while being protected from an implement by said upstanding section during movement of the implement along said guiding device adjacent said first scale.

22. (Previously Presented) A guiding device according to claim 21, wherein said upstanding section has a closed free end that contains no upwardly projecting openings.

23. (Previously Presented) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein

said upstanding section has a closed free end that contains no upwardly projecting openings.

24. (Currently Amended) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein said finger-resting surface is ~~substantially flat and is substantially parallel~~ to a first bottom surface positioned beneath said finger-resting surface.

25. (Previously Presented) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said finger-resting surface is substantially flat.

26. (Currently Amended) A guiding device according to claim 21, wherein said finger-resting surface is ~~substantially flat and is substantially parallel~~ to a first bottom surface positioned beneath said finger-resting surface.

27. (Previously Presented) A guiding device according to claim 21, wherein said finger-resting surface is substantially flat.

28. (Previously Presented) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein said scale-supporting section has a first section end that forms a first free edge for placement against an item to be measured, said scale-supporting section having a second section end that extends to and is connected to said upstanding section, said scale-supporting section has a scale-supporting surface that extends continuously between said first section end and said second section end, and said scale-supporting surface being inclined from said first section end to said second section end.

29. (Previously Presented) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said scale-supporting section has a first section end that forms a first free edge for placement against an item to be measured, said scale-supporting section having a second section end that extends to and is connected to said upstanding section, said scale-supporting section has a scale-supporting surface that extends continuously between said first section end and said second section end, and said scale-supporting surface being inclined from said first section end to said second section end.

30. (Previously Presented) A guiding device according to claim 21, wherein said scale-supporting section has a first section end that forms a first free edge for placement against an item to be measured, said scale-supporting section having a second section end that extends to and is connected to said upstanding section, said scale-supporting section has a scale-supporting surface that extends continuously between said first section end and said second section end, and said scale-supporting surface being inclined from said first section end to said second section end.

31. (New) A guiding device according to claim 6, wherein the substantially flat contact surface cooperates with the scale supporting section to define a V-shaped cross-section.

32. (New) A guiding device according to claim 10, wherein the first side of the upstanding section is inclined with respect to the second side of the upstanding section.

33. (New) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein said guiding device has a solid cross-sectional configuration.

34. (New) A guiding device according to claim 1, wherein the upstanding section extends along an entire length of the finger resting surface at a uniform height from the finger resting surface.

35. (New) A guiding device according to claim 13, further comprising:
a substantially flat contact surface positioned beneath said finger resting surface, said upstanding section, and said scale supporting section to permit smooth application of said guiding device on the working surface,
wherein the substantially flat contact surface cooperates with the scale supporting section to define a V-shaped cross-section.

36. (New) A guiding device according to claim 19, wherein the first side of the upstanding section is inclined with respect to the second side of the upstanding section.

37. (New) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein said guiding device has a solid cross-sectional configuration.

38. (New) A guiding device according to claim 13, wherein the upstanding section extends along an entire length of the finger resting surface at a uniform height from the finger resting surface.

39. (New) A guiding device according to claim 21, further comprising:
a substantially flat contact surface positioned beneath said finger resting surface, said upstanding section, and said scale supporting section to permit smooth application of said guiding device on the working surface,
wherein the substantially flat contact surface cooperates with the scale supporting section to define a V-shaped cross-section.

40. (New) A guiding device according to claim 21, wherein the guiding device has a solid cross-sectional configuration.

41. (New) A guiding device according to claim 21, wherein the upstanding section extends along an entire length of the finger resting surface at a uniform height from the finger resting surface.